

**Testimony before the Appropriations Committee
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DSS Budget**

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Since I am on Social Security for disability and Medicaid and Medicare Part D, we were all notified that there was no raise for our checks or food stamps because there was no raise for our Social Security Income. That's because there was no increase in the cost of living this year. So why are they charging us now for our medications if there is no increase in the cost of living this year? Why are they charging us new co-pays? It is not easy living day to day on the budget for the amount of money they give us. That is hard enough on its own, let alone now charging co-pays for medications each month. We didn't get extra money in our checks to pay for these co-pays.

I don't know what I'm going to do when I can't pay the co-pays I need to get medications for the mental disease I have. I'm disabled and can't work. If I don't have the medications I need to take, I will end up in the hospital within a couple days. And that is going to cost much more money from Medicaid and Medicare Part D just because they won't pay a couple dollars for the co-pay.

Right now I don't even know how I'm going to pay for the medication I'm going to be receiving at the end of this month. I already paid my bills for this month—for groceries and rent. That's all I can afford. I don't have extra money. I live in low-income housing. I have to just to have an apartment. You can't find an apartment anywhere with the money Social Security gives you. There's not enough low-income housing for people on disability. Because of these co-pays people on disability like me will lose their apartments and end up in the hospital.

People who make laws don't always see the people that are affected by laws. They might take an option without looking into what is really happening in their area. Sometimes you say something that might make them think. I hope this will do that.

Thank you,
Kathleen